



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 25 2017

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

Thank you for your June 9, 2017, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding technical assistance funding for small and rural communities.

More than 97 percent of the nation's 151,000 public water systems serve fewer than 10,000 people, and more than 81 percent of these systems serve fewer than 500 people. Many small systems face unique challenges in providing reliable drinking water and wastewater services that meet federal and state regulations, including a lack of financial resources, aging infrastructure, and high staff turnover.

Technical assistance providers are critical partners in supporting drinking water and wastewater systems and protecting public health and the environment. As you noted in your letter, onsite technical assistance helps small and rural communities build the technical, managerial and financial capacity necessary to effectively operate drinking water and wastewater systems and to comply with regulations.

My office administers the Training and Technical Assistance for Small Systems Grant. The recipients of this grant funding are nonprofit organizations that provide training and technical assistance to improve operations and management practices, promote system sustainability, and better protect public health and the environment. Since 2009, the EPA has provided \$95 million in technical assistance grants to assist small drinking water and wastewater systems and private well owners. As noted in your letter, President Trump signed the fiscal year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act on May 5. This summer, the EPA will publish a Request for Applications for the funds appropriated in the Act, \$12.7 million, to fund small system grants for fiscal year 2017. The EPA will use its authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended by the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act, to fund through the RFA non-profit organizations that can provide effective technical assistance for small and rural water systems.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Matt Klasen in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [Klasen.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Klasen.Matthew@epa.gov) or (202) 566-0780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael H. Shapiro".

Michael H. Shapiro  
Acting Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 25 2017

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Barrasso  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your June 9, 2017, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding technical assistance funding for small and rural communities.

More than 97 percent of the nation's 151,000 public water systems serve fewer than 10,000 people, and more than 81 percent of these systems serve fewer than 500 people. Many small systems face unique challenges in providing reliable drinking water and wastewater services that meet federal and state regulations, including a lack of financial resources, aging infrastructure, and high staff turnover.

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Sincerely,

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Michael H. Shapiro  
Acting Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 25 2017

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

Thank you for your June 9, 2017, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding technical assistance funding for small and rural communities.

More than 97 percent of the nation's 151,000 public water systems serve fewer than 10,000 people, and more than 81 percent of these systems serve fewer than 500 people. Many small systems face unique challenges in providing reliable drinking water and wastewater services that meet federal and state regulations, including a lack of financial resources, aging infrastructure, and high staff turnover.

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Michael H. Shapiro  
Acting Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 25 2017

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Thank you for your June 9, 2017, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding technical assistance funding for small and rural communities.

More than 97 percent of the nation's 151,000 public water systems serve fewer than 10,000 people, and more than 81 percent of these systems serve fewer than 500 people. Many small systems face unique challenges in providing reliable drinking water and wastewater services that meet federal and state regulations, including a lack of financial resources, aging infrastructure, and high staff turnover.

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Michael H. Shapiro  
Acting Assistant Administrator







UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 25 2017

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Mike Enzi  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for your June 9, 2017, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding technical assistance funding for small and rural communities.

More than 97 percent of the nation's 151,000 public water systems serve fewer than 10,000 people, and more than 81 percent of these systems serve fewer than 500 people. Many small systems face unique challenges in providing reliable drinking water and wastewater services that meet federal and state regulations, including a lack of financial resources, aging infrastructure, and high staff turnover.

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Michael H. Shapiro  
Acting Assistant Administrator





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 25 2017

OFFICE OF WATER

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Heitkamp:

Thank you for your June 9, 2017, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding technical assistance funding for small and rural communities.

More than 97 percent of the nation's 151,000 public water systems serve fewer than 10,000 people, and more than 81 percent of these systems serve fewer than 500 people. Many small systems face unique challenges in providing reliable drinking water and wastewater services that meet federal and state regulations, including a lack of financial resources, aging infrastructure, and high staff turnover.

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